

NOAA
FISHERIES

Southeast Fisheries
Science Center

Theme 2: What is the efficacy of the assessment process from an SSC perspective?

July 2014

SOUTHEAST SSCs

- Composed of economists, biologists, sociologists and natural resource attorneys.
- Few NOAA members on SE SSCs
- ~70 members (4 NOAA Staff)
- 28 members (5 NOAA Staff)
- 8 member (1 NOAA Staff)



SSC PARTICIPATION IN SEDAR

- **Data Workshop:** Requires 1 week of SSC participation
- **Assessment Workshop:**
 - In person: Requires 1 week of SSC participation
 - Webinars: 5-17 four hour webinars over 12+ weeks.
- **Review Workshop:** Chaired by an SSC member. 3 SSC and 3 CIE panelists. SSC chair generally writes the summary report. Requires preparation to evaluate documents.
- SSC panelists generally participate in only one component.

SSC PERSPECTIVES: WEBINARS

- GMFMC SSC **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** that AWs be conducted in person.
- SSC Feedback:
 - Too many - prevents consistent attendance and limits participation
 - Inefficient use of time
 - Frequent webinars force incremental decisions and limit progress
 - **Webinars degrade the assessment quality**



SSC PERSPECTIVES: REVIEW PROCESS

- SSCs believe the adequacy/utility of CIE reviews is unpredictable
 - SSCs accept/reject assessments and determine ABC
 - SSCs may request revisions
- Some GMFMC SSC members prefer return to expert "Stock Assessment Panels"
 - More expertise in SE stocks, fisheries and management procedures.
 - More consistency of review



SSC PERSPECTIVES: THROUGHPUT

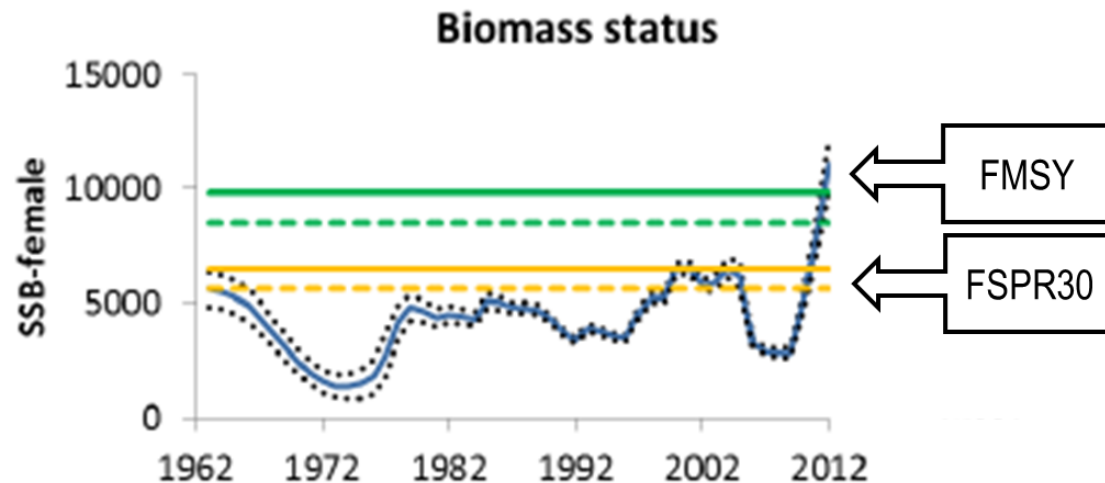
- SSCs desire more throughput
 - More updates/Less benchmarks
 - "Indicator" assessments
 - Multi-species assessments
 - External assessments
 - Not all assessment through SEDAR

SSC PERSPECTIVES: PRIORITIZATION

- SSCs currently reviews schedules and TORs, provide comments to Council
- GMFMC SSC has requested representation on the SEDAR Steering Committee - has not been approved
- SSC members prefer a stronger role in prioritization of assessments.
 - Increased assessment frequency for managed stocks
 - Assessments of unassessed species

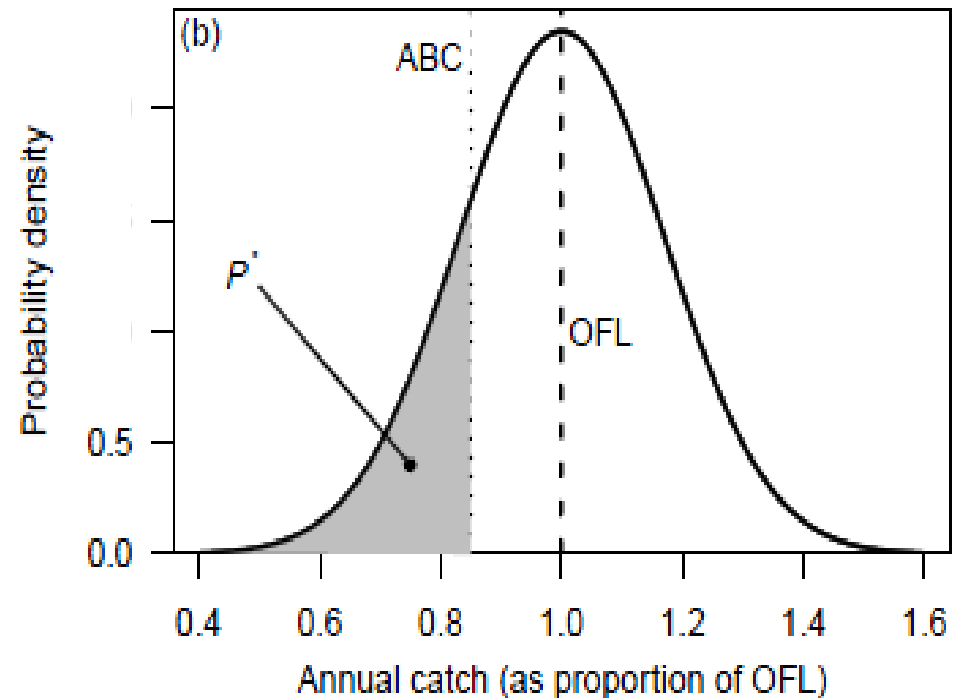
SSC PERSPECTIVES: MANAGEMENT ADVICE

- SSCs often choose management references.
- SSC has requested better biological information to support choice of proxy.
- Research time to improve stock assessment is needed.



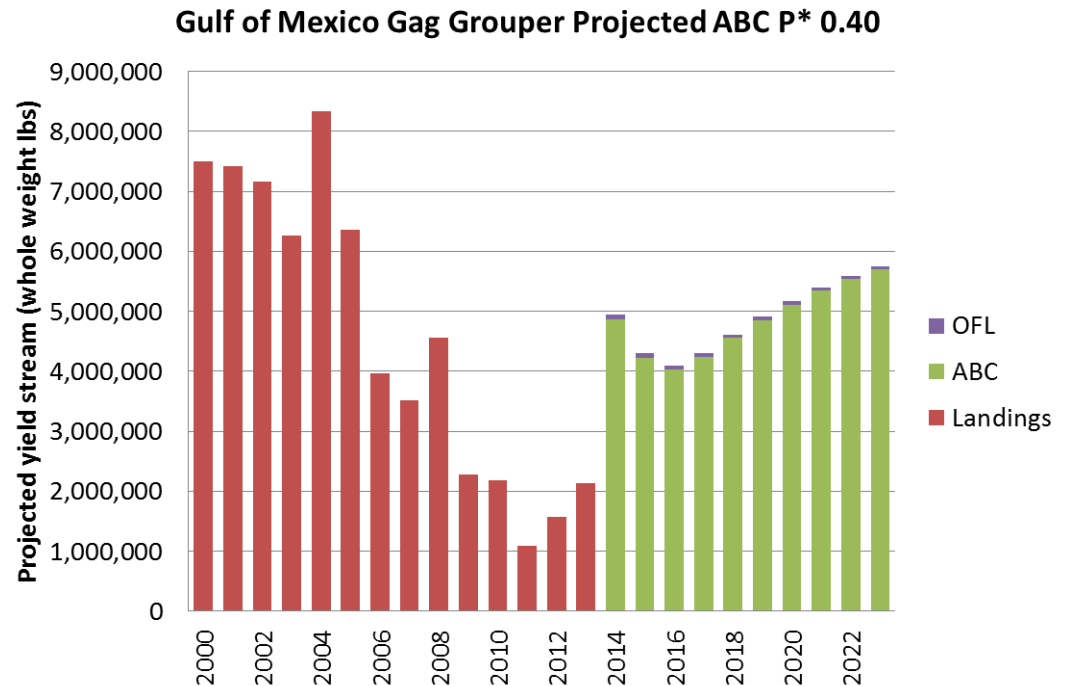
SSC PERSPECTIVES: MANAGEMENT ADVICE

- GOM and SATL SSCs utilize a P^* approach to develop ABC - can be subjective and analytically burdensome
- GOM SSC is investigating simplified control rules - results in data requests to and participation by SEFSC



SSC PERSPECTIVES: MANAGEMENT ADVICE

- GMFMC SSC is concerned that SS models have produced narrow pdfs that do not adequately convey scientific uncertainty.
- Has led to ongoing reevaluation of control rules.



SSC PERSPECTIVES: MANAGEMENT ADVICE

- Assessments accepted through SEDAR are not useful for management (no estimate of OFL-ABC-ACL).
- SEDAR should be restructured to better meet the needs of the CFMC
- New Conceptual Model:
 - Proposed by SEFEC, Supported by CFMC
 - 2015 Multi-species DATA TRIAGE
 - 2016 Multi-species DATA POOR METHODS

Discussion Points

- Prioritization:
 - Consider national priorities as developed by NOAA?
 - Include SSC reps on Steering Committee?
- How could the SEDAR process be improved?
 - Quality
 - Transparency
 - Throughout
- How can the Science Center better meet the research needs identified by the SSCs and Councils?